

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 240517Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2988

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 17136

FOLLOWING TEL MADRAS 1968 DTD 23 DEC 75 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: KARUNANIDHI CALLS FOR ELECTIONS IN TAMIL NADU

1. CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI, ADDRESSING A DEC 22 BLD MEETING
HONORING THE LATE C. RAJAGOPALACHARI, CALLED FOR ELECTIONS IN
TAMIL NADU IN FEBRUARY 1976 WHEN THE TERM OF THE PRESENT LEGISLAT-
IVE ASSEMBLY ENDS. KARUNANIDHI SAID HE HAS GREAT FAITH IN DEMOCRACY
AND WANTS THE PEOPLE TO GIVE THEIR VERDICT ON DMK RULE; "IF
THEY VOTE US DOWN IN AN ELECTION WE ARE PREPARED TO QUIT".

2. THE DMK HAS SENT OUT INVITATIONS FOR THE FIFTH STATE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTY, WHICH IS TO BE HELD IN COIMBATORE DECEMBER 25-28.
THIS WILL BE THE FIRST STATE CONFERENCE HELD BY THE DMK SINCE
IT BECAME THE RULING PARTY IN TAMIL NADU, THE LAST STATE CON-
FERENCE HAVING BEEN HELD IN 1966 WHILE THE DMK WAS STILL IN OPPOS-
ITION. WE ARE TOLD THAT ABOUT 500,000 PARTY MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONFERENCE.

3. BOTH KARUNANIDHI'S CALL FOR ELECTIONS AND THE DMK'S STATE
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CONFERENCE ARD CLEARLY MOVES DESIGNED TO RALLY AND STRENGTHEN

THE DMK AS TENSIONS BETWEEN THE CENTER AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT
CONTINUE TO DEVELOP. KARUNANIDHI'S DEMAND FOR ELECTIONS REFLECTS
THE WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION HERE THAT ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE HELD
AND THAT PRESIDENT'S RULE WILL BE IMPOSED WHEN THE DMK GOVERN-
MENT'S 5-YEAR TERM EXPIRES IN FEBRUARY.

EAVES

UNQUOTE

SAXBE

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